



Second UNESCO World Heritage workshop on

'Disaster Risk Reduction to Cultural Heritage'



The central and eastern parts of the Mediterranean share common ancient traditions and cultures and therefore many similarities in cultural heritage sites and monuments. Moreover, this area suffers from comparable natural and manmade risks, such as seismic hazard and shares a common seismic history. In the last decade, strong earthquakes hit Turkey and Greece, acting within the same geological environment. In April 2009, a disastrous event occurred in the Abruzzi region in Italy, causing huge damage to the built heritage.

The management of disaster risks is a common challenge for countries throughout the world. Hazards are not limited to modern borders but are present along vast geographical areas, and therefore require a universal reflection about how to face the problems shared by the different countries, including in terms of their possible administrative and technical solutions.

An early preparedness based on appropriate policies and procedures may significantly reduce the risks from disasters to cultural heritage. This can be achieved through sharing of experiences, the creation of quick and efficient response mechanisms in the event of disaster as well as by preventing the worst effects of anticipated hazards. These principles are underpinning the "Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction at World Heritage Properties", adopted by the World Heritage Committee at its 31st session in 2007 (Christchurch, New Zealand).

The goals of the workshop are:

- Increasing understanding of disaster risks management approaches and practices at national and site levels through the review of selected case studies;
- The initiation of a network of experts from around the world who are involved in the management and reduction of disaster risks to cultural heritage;
- The development of an action plan for the implementation of the "Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction at World Heritage Properties".

The second Workshop, building on the results of the initial meeting held at Olympia, Greece in November 2008, is jointly organized by the Israel Antiquities Authority and the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and benefits from the contribution of the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Activities in the framework of their collaboration partnership with the Israel Antiquities Authority.

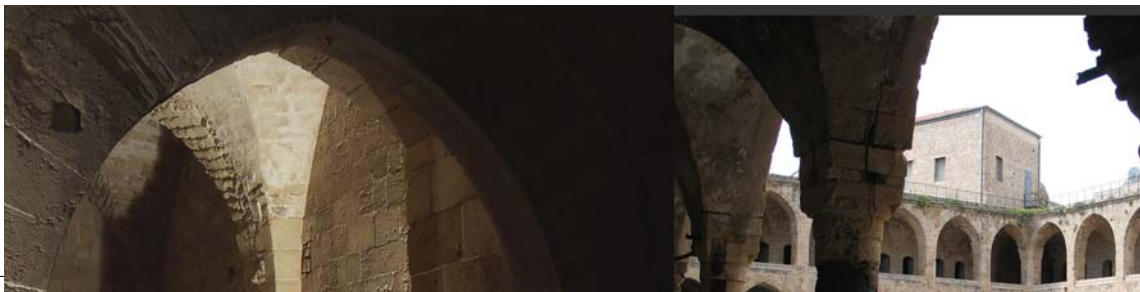
Workshop Framework

Local Evening
Saturday, Nov. 14th 2009

Workshop main Lecture sessions
Reception
Sunday, Nov. 15th 2009

A study tour to the 'Dead Sea Rift' sites
Monday, Nov. 16th 2009

Discussion, conclusions and closing session
Tuesday, Nov. 17th 2009



Steering Committee

- Prof. Michael Turner (Chair) UNESCO Chair in Urban Design and Conservation Studies, Bezalel Academy, Jerusalem
- Dr. Alessandro Bianchi, Istituto Superiore per la Conservazione ed il Restauro, Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali, Rome
- Mr. Giovanni Boccardi, Chief, Asia and Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- Prof. Yossef Hatzor, Lemkin Chair in Rock Mechanics and Geological Engineering, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer – Sheva, Israel
- Dr. Rivka Amit, Head, Engineering Geology & Geological Hazards Division, The Geological Survey of Israel
- Ms. Kaori Kawakami, Asia Pacific Unit, UNESCO World Heritage Centre
- Mr. Daniel Bar-Elli, Secretary-General Israel National Commission for UNESCO
- Mr. Michael Cohen, International Projects Coordinator, Conservation Department, Israel Antiquities Authority

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14-17 November, 2009
Acre, Israel

